GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:704
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
WATER CRISIS IN KEOLDEV NATIONAL PARK
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Keoldev National Park has been facing severe water crisis for the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the current status of the proposal; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) As reported by the State Government of Rajasthan, the Keolado National Park had faced water crisis during 2000-01 to 2004-05 and again during 2006-07 to 2007-08. However, during the current year, the park has received approximately 450-500 m.eft water from the Ajan Bandh and Chiksana Canal as against the annual requirement of about 540 m.eft of water.

(c) & (d) The Government of Rajasthan had submitted two proposals in the past to the Union Government for augmenting water supply to the Keoladeo National Park. The first proposal was submitted in 2005 with financial implication of Rs. 100.00 crores. It envisaged bringing water from the Chambal river through a regular supply to the Park. It was referred to the Planning Commission for further necessary action by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

The State Government submitted another proposal in March, 2008 with an estimated cost of Rs. 61.23 crores involving diversion of flood waters from Govardhan drain to Keoladeo National Park to augment the water supply to Keoldeo National Park. The same was also recommended to the Planning Commission. In this connection, an expert team from the Planning Commission had already visited the site at Bharatpur in August, 2008 for the feasibility of the project.

(e) Availability of water in the Keoladeo National Park depends on adequate rainfall in the area. The following steps to address the water problem in the Park have been taken :

(i) Four new deep bore wells and two new shallow bore wells have been dug inside the Park to address the emergency situation.

(ii) The State Government has completed the Chiksana Canal Project, which along with the Ajan dam, would bring about 200 million cubie feet of flood water to Keoldeo National Park during the monsoon period.

(iii) Provision has been made to supply water to Keoldeo National Park in the Dholpur- Bharatpur Chambal drinking water project.

(iv) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been providing financial and technical assistance to the State Government for the better management of Keoladeo National Park. An amount of Rs. 28.00 lakhs has been released as first instalment during the current financial year (2008-09) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to Development of National Park & Sanctuaries".

(v) An UNESCO funded project has been launched for better management of Keoladeo National Park